

## Garibashvili visits Ukraine, meets with country's PM

The visit started on August 21 and will be concluded on August 23

By Nika Gantsemlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia held an official visit to Ukraine. The visit started on August 21 and will be concluded today, on August 23. The Prime Minister of Georgia met the Ukrainian Prime Minister on August 21.

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili told a joint news conference after meeting with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal that Russia's actions in Ukraine, Crimea, Georgia, Tskhinvali, and Abkhazia were of common concern.

He said that the so-called process of borderization is still ongoing, in addition, 20 percent of the Georgian territory is still occupied by the Russian forces. The Prime Minister also announced that he plans to take part in the Crimea Platform, a diplomatic initiative of Ukraine and its president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

After the meeting with Denys Shmyhal, Garibashvili also spoke about the aspirations of Georgia and Ukraine towards European integration and focused on the importance of the establishment of a "trio" format.

"We, the three countries - Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia - can set a really good example for the international community and prove to our partners in a trio "format that we can be successful



Garibashvili met with Ukrainian Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal



Georgian PM will participate in Crimea Platform today, on August 23

states and deserve EU and NATO membership," said Garibashvili.

As for the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Denys Shmyhal, during the meeting, both sides talked about joint steps that should be taken to fasten the integration of Georgia and Ukraine in NATO. Shmyhal also noted that the "Trio" has become a very strong player in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration of the three countries.

The Prime Minister of Ukraine states that Ukraine is interested in the development of railway transit with Georgia, and he raised this issue at a meeting with the Prime Minister of Georgia.

According to him, in this context, it was agreed with Garibashvili that consultations will continue with the European Commission to ensure favorable conditions for freight traffic in the seaports of Georgia, Ukraine, and other EU countries.

At the same time, he focused on the development of trade between Georgia and Ukraine. He noted that the dynamics of the bilateral trade have reached a new level and increased by 32% in the first five months of 2021.

According to him, Georgia and Ukraine have all the prerequisites for expanding investment cooperation. As he noted, the possibility of business participation in the development of joint high-tech enterprises in the privatization process, as well as in infrastructure projects was discussed.

Today, on August 23, the Prime Minister of the country will take part in the Crimea Platform. Leaders of over 40 countries are taking part in the summit, which includes the EU, NATO, and the USA. The summit will be conducted with the signing of the Charter of Crimea.

### The News in Brief

PREPARED BY  
THE MESSENGER STAFF

**Irakli Gharibashvili - At the meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky we discussed the strategic partnership between Georgia and Ukraine, European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, regional security issues**

Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili commented on the meeting with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky on Twitter.

The head of government writes that

with the President of Ukraine he discussed common European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations, regional security issues and the importance of effective peaceful conflict resolution

"Great meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky to discuss Georgia-Ukraine strategic partnership, common European & Euro-Atlantic aspirations, regional security issues & the importance of effective peaceful conflict resolution. Georgia reaffirms its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty & territorial integrity," wrote Gharibashvili.

**Nika Melia: Bidzina Ivanishvili mockingly runs our state, which he has seized, from home**

According to Nika Melia, this year there

will be not just an election, but a referendum.

"There will be no elections where we only count the percentages, it can no longer be a party struggle and it can no longer be a struggle where more or less better or worse results will be shown by any separate opposition candidate in any city, district or village. This is a crucial battle and we have to send the Georgian Dream home and leave Bidzina Ivanishvili at home. Yes, let's leave Bidzina Ivanishvili at home, we cannot send him home, because this person is comfortable at home and runs the state from home, which he has seized. Isn't it a paradox? Yes, of course, it is a paradox that many Georgians have tolerated this oligarch running our seized state from home mockingly. We should save this state from him on October 2," said Nika Melia.

### Politics/Economics

**10% of Georgia's population fully vaccinated**  
There are four vaccines available: Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and Sinovac

**Opening Ceremony of The Project for Provision of Mobile Library in Autonomous Republic of Adjara**

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Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1257; Euro - 3.6514; GBP - 4.2560; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.1944; Swiss Franc - 3.4101

# 10% of Georgia's population fully vaccinated



Amiran Gamkrelidze said they aim to vaccinate at least 60 percent of the adult population until the end of the year

“To somehow stop the worsening epidemiological situation in the country, at least 30 percent of the population needs to be fully vaccinated. If we manage to vaccinate 30 percent of our population, the worsening of the situation stops. Once we reach 40 percent, daily confirmed cases decrease a lot. In August, we believe to have administered 650,000 jabs, and for September, we want to take the number to 1 million,” said Gamkrelidze.

Gamkrelidze said that there is a very bad situation in the country. He said that although there is a little stabilization tendency seen over the past few days, this does not give the people reason to stay calm. He called on the people to wear masks, get vaccinated, and strictly follow all the recommendations and restrictions adopted in the country.

Amid the worsening epidemiological situation in the country, the Public Defender of Georgia, Nino Lomjaria issued a statement, saying that the government has put its population at great risk. She posted on Facebook on August 21, after the announcement of statistics



There are several vaccination sites opened in Georgia where people can get vaccinated without prior online registration

showing that 74 people had died because of Covid-19 in just 24 hours.

Because of the increasing number of active cases in the country, there are very few available beds left in the hospitals. Because of this, the Health Ministry was forced to open two field hospitals, one of which has already received several patients.

There is a total of 4 vaccines available in the country. These

include Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, and Sinovac. As of now, people can get vaccinated on numerous different sites without prior registration.

This is the worse wave of the Covid-19 that Georgia has seen. The majority of the confirmed cases are Delta variant, which is known for spreading faster. In total, Georgia has reported 514,744 cases, out of which, 6771 people have died.

BY NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The National Center for Disease Control and Public Health announced yesterday, on August 22, that 10 percent of the population of Georgia has already received both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. The aim for the country is to fully vaccinate at least 60 percent of the population. In total, Georgia has administered 962,165 jabs. 23,7%

of the population has already received at least one dose of the vaccine.

The director of NCDC, Amiran Gamkrelidze, said that they aim to vaccinate 60 percent of the adult population until the end of the year, which translates to 1,7 million people. He said that as the number of fully vaccinated people increases, the number of Covid-19 cases decreases.

# Opening Ceremony of The Project for Provision of Mobile Library in Autonomous Republic of Adjara



On August 20, the Opening Ceremony of the Project for Provision of Mobile Library in Autonomous Republic of Adjara was held within the Grassroots Human Security Grant Program (GGP), funded by the Government of Japan, based on the goodwill of the Japanese people.

The Ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Imamura Akira, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia and the representatives of recipient organization.

Within the project a mobile library was purchased for Adjara mountainous areas. The Mobile library is fully equipped and is ready to travel from village to village for providing education opportunities for the children and youth in Mountainous Adjara Region, where access to literature is scarce.

This project was developed in accordance with the Strategy for Development of High Mountain Settlements of Georgia and implemented by the NGO Independent Journalist House (IJH). Grant Amount is 72,000 USD.

This project was a part of the Grassroots and Human Security Program (GGP) that provides assistance to relatively small projects implemented by municipalities, medical/educational institutions, as well as NGOs and aims at improving the living standards of Georgian people. Within 22 years of its work in Georgia - from 1998 to 2020, the GGP funded 180 projects, in total amounting to more than 19 million USD.

## Weather

Monday, August 23

Day Partly Cloudy

High: 35°C

Night Mostly Cloudy

Low: 21°C

Tuesday, August 24

Day Mostly Cloudy

High: 33°C

Night T-storm

Low: 20°C

published by

The Messenger

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